

From: John Osborn
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:25pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

18730 56th Avenue NE
Kenmore, WA 98028

January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my support of the antitrust case settlement between the US Department of Justice and Microsoft. I think that the lawsuit has been lengthy and partially unjustified. I am a MAC user, but Microsoft has done wonderful things for our nation's IT sector and economy. Yes, their marketing tactics at times are a bit heavy handed, but three years of litigation is entirely too much to resolve this problem.

Under the terms of the settlement, I do not think it is fair that Microsoft is being forced to document and disclose for use by its competitors interfaces and protocols that are internal to their Windows operating system products. This is technological information that Microsoft has spent lots of time and money to develop and it is a violation of their intellectual property rights to force them to give away their secrets. It also undermines any motivation to be innovative in a free market. I do agree with the concession that allows competitors to promote their own products. For instance, granting computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows so that software developers can more easily promote their own products will serve to give competition the chance to succeed.

Although the settlement is not perfect, it needs to become reality because our nation cannot afford further litigation. The IT sector and the economy need Microsoft at full strength. I urge your office to take a firm stance against the opposition to the settlement and make it a reality. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John Osborn